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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/385,918	08/30/1999	Merl F. Hoekstra	860098.433	9788

7590 05/11/2004

Pennie & Edmonds LLP
1155 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036

EXAMINER

ANDRES, JANET L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1646

22

DATE MAILED: 05/11/2004

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APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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EXAMINER

ART UNIT	PAPER
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20040506

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Commissioner for Patents

All claims are allowable. However, due to a potential interference, *ex parte* prosecution is **SUSPENDED FOR A PERIOD OF 6 MONTHS** from the date of this letter. Upon expiration of the period of suspension, applicant should make an inquiry as to the status of the application.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Janet Andres, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (571) 272-0867. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Kinz, Ph.D., can be reached at (571) 272-0887. The fax phone number for this group is (703) 872-9306. Communications via internet mail regarding this application, other than those under U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [gary.kunz@uspto.gov].

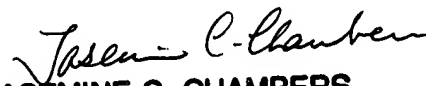
All Internet email communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark Office on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Janet Andres, Ph.D.

6 May 2004


GARY KUNZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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